

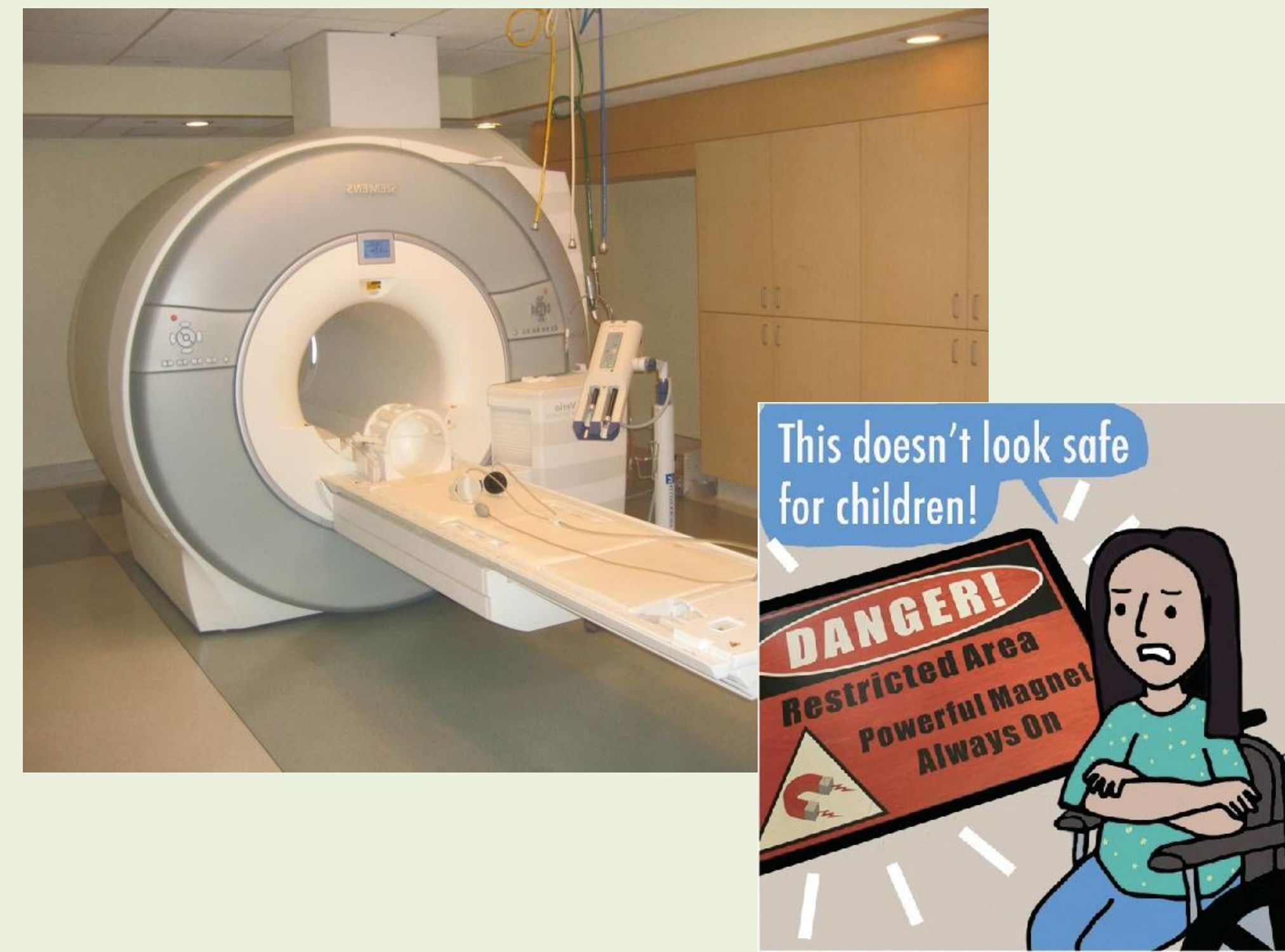
Drawing the MRI:

Qualitatively Evaluating A Comic Form Information Guide to Having an MRI and Reflecting on the Collaborative Process

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Our team:

Heather Wilson (comics artist-writer)
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Claire Watson (Radiographer)
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Background:

Radiographers felt that information material provided for children having an MRI was not helpful in helping them understand what would happen to them during a scan. They approached researchers at Newcastle University to explore alternative approaches to communicating information. This poster explains how university researchers, radiographers and comic designers, with input from young people, developed comic information.

Why Comics?

- The value of comics is more than that they can be appealing to children and young people. The comics medium offers a wide range of art styles and narrative choices, to find effective ways of communicating information.
- In graphic medicine comics are used across different age groups and health issues, to convey varied aspects of living with illness and receiving medical treatment.
- Comic creators are also increasingly interested in producing materials that can have applied uses in medicine and healthcare to aid people engage with information and capture the varied experiences people can have.



Stage 2A: Developing Comic Content

With the radiography team and the comic artist 3 story lines were identified to capture variations in a child's background and history and purpose of scan:

- A young White boy with his grandmother, attending as an outpatient.
- A young Asian girl, wheel chair user, travelling a long distance to have the scan with her mother.
- A young Black boy who is attending as in-patient, with his father.

Stage 1: Capturing Ideas

- An early stage in the development of the idea was to speak with YPAG to help think about key issues such as age range, comic format, interactivity, balance of story and picture.
- We then came together in the MRI space with the comic artist to discuss with the radiography team what happens during a MRI scan and the issues they thought most important to get across in the comic.
- It was important that the technology was put in its context and also the varied context of the child was included.



Stage 2B: Developing Comic Style

- The comic was developed as a mix of layers of photo, drawings and text to ensure the MRI experience and space is captured, and a variety of children's specific circumstances are acknowledged.
- Quizzes were included to enable an interactive aspect.
- The process of creating that material involves multiple levels of drafting on the part of the comic maker and feedback from us and the radiography team.



Stage 3: Evaluating

- Now we have the prototype we need to gain feedback to understand what works and what doesn't and revise it. In particular we are:
- Meeting with YPAG again to consult them on what we have produced
- We have funding from the Great North Children's Hospital Foundation to do telephone interviews with children who receive the comic to explore their thoughts on the comic.
- We are also speaking with the radiographers and other practitioners to gain their feedback. There is an online survey practitioners can fill in to give their feedback.
- <https://forms.ncl.ac.uk/view.php?id=3339664>

CHECK LIST

Empty pockets? ☐

No jewellery? ☐

Been to the toilet? ☐

Next steps

- Discussing with different Trust departments other possible treatment contexts where comic formats could be useful.
- Looking to create materials that can help others learn what is involved
- Also beginning to work on producing a broader infrastructure, including funding support, that can help facilitate greater use of varied comic style materials across the Trust and elsewhere.

What we have learned so far

- It took 2 years to get to the comic prototype, this was partly an issue of funding.
- It also speaks to the layers of process involved in creating comic material.
- Gaining funding from the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology at Newcastle University for the comic artist time enabled the project to move forward with greater focus and momentum.
- Building up a working relationship across the different actors and organisational contexts has been an important and positive aspect of making the process work.
- Negotiating our way through Trust regulatory processes has been a challenge, particularly to do the evaluation with children and young people.
- However, having been through these processes for the MRI comic, we feel we and the Trust can now move towards a process for producing this material with greater recognition of what is involved.

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You can read *My MRI!* comic free online:
<http://appliedcomicsetc.com/portfolio/my-mri/>

